

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

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Jared Huffman
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, 6TH DISTRICT

CHAIR, Environmental Safety
& Toxic Materials Committee

COMMITTEES
Appropriations
Utilities and Commerce
Water Parks and Wildlife

A.G. Kawamura, Secretary
California Department of Food and Agriculture
1220 N Street, Room 400
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Secretary Kawamura:

Thank you for arranging my meeting yesterday with your staff regarding the California Department of Food and Agriculture's Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM) eradication program. My conversations with Undersecretary George Gomes and Dr. Robert Dowell, Larry Bezark and David Pegos were informative and provided me a clearer understanding of the program.

While I appreciate the Department's efforts to respond to concerns expressed by members of communities previously treated for LBAM infestation, it is clear to me that the very short lead-time the Department has proposed for eradication work in Marin County will not allow an adequate public outreach and education process. My constituents want and expect to be consulted in advance about treatments proposed in their neighborhoods. One forum to explain local LBAM eradication activities and the potential public health and environmental impacts of those activities is not sufficient. Therefore, I reiterate my request to the Department to delay LBAM eradication efforts in Marin County until a more comprehensive public process based on sound science is employed.

While I understand the Department believes LBAM poses a serious threat to California's natural environment and economy, and I applaud the Department's emphasis on non-toxic eradication methods, I also believe a better public process is warranted here.

I look forward to hearing from you about whether the Department will delay eradication efforts in Marin County and to regular updates on the program from the Department.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jared Huffman", written over a horizontal line.

JARED HUFFMAN
Assemblymember, 6th District